CLASSIFICATION SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.
CRR 5980

COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR. 19 Mar 1953

SUBJECT The Volga-Don and Main Turkmen Canals

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE ACQUIRED BY SOURCE

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

DATE OF INFORMATION

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE

1. By a decision of the Council of Ministers of the USSR enacted on 28 Dec 50 the construction of the Volga Don steam navigation canal was projected. At the Tsimlyansk station the Don is blocked by a dam, 13 km long, made of earth and concrete. The dam has spillways and an electric power station. Raised 26 meters above its normal level the Don has formed a great reservoir, the "Tsimlyansk Sea", 180 km long and 30 km wide. The Tsimlyansk reservoir will serve the hydroelectric station which has a power production potential of 160,000 kw. Part of this energy will go for the general economic needs of the area, while part will go for irrigation. In the deserts and dry regions of Rostov and Stalingrad provinces 750 thousand hectares are irrigated and two million hectares are supplied with water.

2. Water supply includes the supplying of water for drinking, industrial uses and for the irrigation of large areas of land. The irrigation and water supply system, composed of 568 km of canals, forms a canal network on the left bank of the Don. This network operates from the main canal which is 190 km long and which takes water from the reservoir at a rate of 250 cubic meters of water a second.

3. The Volga-Don canal begins at Kalach on the upper part of the Don where the navigable depth has been increased by the construction of the Tsimlyansk dam. At a distance of 101 km from the dam, the canal comes down to Krasnoarmeisk na Volge 30 km from Stalingrad. For a distance of 56 km part of the canal passes through an artificial channel, while the other 49 km makes use of the Sapra River valley, (the Chervlyenaya and Karpovka streams). The canal passes through the watershed which raises it 88 meters above the Volga and 44 meters above the Don. It has 13 locks calculated to let heavy vessels through. There are four locks from the watershed down to the Don and nine down to the Volga. These locks are fed by three pumping stations located on the bank of the Don and pumping 45 cubic meters of water per second.

4. A steamship, going from the Black Sea, will pass through the Sea of Azov and the Tsimlyansk reservoir to the port of Kalach. Then, going across three big reservoirs, it is raised by the locks 44 meters above the Don, and from there (88 meters above the Volga) it will go down through nine locks to Krasnoarmeisk.

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5. The main Turkmen canal begins at Takhia-Tasha 160 km from the Aral Sea. Here the Amu-Darya River (160 miles from the mouth of the Aral Sea) is blocked by a dam forming a reservoir. At the dam a hydroelectric station, the energy of which will be used for pumping the water of the Amu-Darya into the canal, will be constructed. The canal will go west from Takhia-Tasha. At 400 miles from its beginning, the canal will go along the dried-up bed of the ancient Uzboi River and will follow this riverbed for 700 km. It is calculated that 400-650 cubic cm of water will be pumped from the Amu-Darya into the canal. The canal, when it is made navigable, will flow into the Caspian Sea in the district of Krasnovodsk.

6. In the upper part of the Kara Kum desert, which is blocked by two dams with hydroelectric stations, there are two big reservoirs. From these reservoirs, from other parts of the canal and from the Takhia-Tasha dam on all sides stretch the irrigation and water supply canals reaching out for a distance of 1200 km and a network of pipelines totaling 1000 km in length. The irrigation system is responsible for two districts:

(a) Kara-Kalpak province, the uninhabited parts of the Amu-Darya delta and, below this, the northern district of Turkmen, sometimes called Khoryezmum. Here it is calculated to irrigate 800 thousand hectares mainly for medium-fibrous cotton and its comparison in crop rotation, alfalfa (its appearance will bring about the possibility of an in increase per head in livestock production).

(b) The Pre-Caspian plain of southwestern Turkmen. On the west this region is bounded by the Caspian Sea, on the north by the Bol'shoy and Maly Balkhan Mountains, on the east by the Kyuren-Dag Mountains and on the south by the Atrek River and the Iranian frontier. A large canal branching off from the main Turkmen canal will go thru this district. On the right side of this district, protected by the Kyuren-Dag Mountains from the Kara-Kum dry summer winds and the cold eastern winter wind, 500 thousand hectares will be irrigated. The climate of the locality plus the availability of water makes it highly favorable for agriculture. Counting the 500 thousand hectares of land which will be irrigated and the land which is already under irrigation, it may well be that not less than one million hectares of land will be planted to cotton in this area. This makes up nearly 60% of all the cotton acreage at the present time in the USSR. In this way the construction of the Main Turkmen Canal will make possible the irrigation of 1,300,000 hectares of land and with the help of the resurrected Uzboi River nearly seven million hectares of the Kara-Kum desert will be supplied with water. Along both sides of the Main Turkmen canal, its irrigation and drainage canals, along the edges of cases, around the industrial centers and the population points will run a protective wooded covering. These protective wooded strips will have a width of at least two kilometers. The canal is not able, apparently, to exert any considerable influence on the rise of the level of the Caspian Sea since most of the water is destined for irrigation and water supply in the dry districts exclusively. Besides this, one must take into account the great amount of evaporation of water in the canal and in the Caspian Sea.

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